

# around the RING

## UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA NEWSLETTER

Vol. 4 No. 19 May 23 '75



*Because of the generosity of the late Mrs. Jeanne Simpson, of Cowichan Lake, UVic has come into a two-fold blessing: her lakeside wilderness property and her invaluable rhododendron collection which is going to form the basis for the University's first exotic gardens. Upper right, is Rex Murfitt, UVic's Superintendent of Grounds and a horticultural specialist, before one of the rhododendrons remaining on the lake property. Most of these rare plants — there are 350 of them representing more than 100 species — are being moved to the campus for the new gardens, the site of which Mr. Murfitt points out in the lower photo. Upper left is the entrance to the former Simpson property, which is mainly 25 acres of towering timber on 1,000 yards of lakeshore. See inside pages.*

(Photos by Bryan McGill)

### EXOTIC GARDENS SET

UVic will create a gardens containing an extremely rare collection of rhododendrons within a three-acre wooded area near the main entrance to the campus.

The collection, which is made up of 350 plants representing about 100 various species, most of them Asiatic, was bequeathed to UVic, along with a 25-acre wilderness property on Lake Cowichan, by the late Mrs. Jeanne Simpson.

"The creation of a university gardens will add a significant new dimension to the horticultural features of the 'City of Gardens,'" said Floyd Fairclough, UVic's Director of Property Development.

He said the collection, which he called priceless, will form the basis for future additions.

"The university is indeed fortunate to be able to start its gardens with what has been described by parks authorities as one of the finest collections of rhododendron species in North America."

Mr. Fairclough noted that the gardens is coming at a time when the major capital construction phase of the 12-year-old university is nearing completion and when emphasis is changing to beautification of a campus that is located in one of the most beautiful areas of Canada.

"We now have the material, the expertise to plan and care for exotic plants, and last, but not least, the enthusiasm and determination of the members of the Biology Department and Grounds staff to develop an educational garden area for the instruction and enjoyment of students and for the viewing pleasure of the general public."

Approval for the gardens was granted this week by the Board of Governors following a study on the Simpson property carried out in 1974 by an ad hoc committee headed by Dr. Roderick Haig-Brown, well-known naturalist and a former chancellor of UVic, and a study this year on the proposed gardens by a sub-committee under Dr. Charles Daniels (Philosophy) reporting to the Dean of Administration.

The board has set aside \$12,000 for the initial capital costs of what is estimated to be a \$30,000 project. It is hoped the remainder of the funds will be raised from among local horticultural enthusiasts.

It is proposed that the rhododendron

section of what will eventually become a wider university gardens will be named the Simpsons Gardens after this benefactor who died in 1973 at the age of 87 and who spent a lifetime in collecting the rhododendrons and related plants.

The garden is to be located inside the Ring Road on the MacLaurin Building side of the walkway into campus from Henderson Road. A second area, for future extension of the gardens, will be set aside just across Ring Road from the initial site.

The gardens will also screen the MacLaurin parking lot from the walkway. Another advance of the site is the easy access for visitors from the parking lot.

Rex Murfitt, Superintendent of Grounds, said work will begin soon in clearing brush from the trees.

The project will involve the creation of nature paths and will have lighting for night-time enjoyment of the area. The rhododendrons, which vary in height from two to thirty feet, will be planted around the trees, because they require some shade, and open areas will be seeded for grass.

About 250 of the rhododendrons recently were moved from the Lake Cowichan property to a holding area on campus to save them from damage or destruction, Mr. Murfitt said. Some of the larger specimens will be left at Lake Cowichan.

The Haig-Brown report had urged immediate action to move the plants because the Simpson property garden had fallen into near ruin, with weeds and growth already having killed some valuable specimens, and the idea of trying to restore the gardens being ruled out as impractical, if not impossible.

Mr. Murfitt, together with A.R. Cook, a rhododendron specialist from the Vancouver Parks Board, appraised and identified the species and supervised their removal.

Mrs. Simpson had notified UVic of her bequeathal in 1967, specifying that its ownership, free and clear of all encumbrances, would be effective when she died, and she expressed the hope that the property would be left in near as a natural state as possible. In 1972, a year before her death, she had realized the rhododendrons would have to be moved, and she asked that they be displayed as a unit. Mrs. Simpson had lived on the property until a few years before her death.

As for the Simpson property, and this is still under advisement, the Haig-Brown report recommended that it be used by UVic as a field studies and resource management centre, the facilities provided to be shared by departments of the university engaged in such studies.

It recommended also that new buildings blend in with the existing buildings in the present cleared area and the rest of the property remain in a natural state.



*This is a view of Lake Cowichan from the Simpson property, and caretaker Ed Marley stands before a segment of the gardens that is being moved to the campus.*



New facilities would cost about \$165,000 and they would include a laboratory near the 1,000 yards of waterfront, a dormitory to provide sleeping and dining accommodation for up to 30 persons, septic tank and electrical services, a floating dock and a storage shed.

This cost does not include the major repairs that are needed to be done to the existing buildings, which consist of a log house, a guest cottage and two storage sheds. Mrs. Simpson had lived in the log house without the benefit of electricity, central heating and with minimum of comforts.

The committee especially urged that the log house, which was built in 1903 from cedar logs for the then-owner, a Dr. Stocker, be restored because of its historical importance to the site.

The committee further recommended that UVic investigate the possibility of having Lake Cowichan's Bald Mountain Peninsula designated and reserved as an area set aside for environmental education and research. At present, the peninsula is mainly owned by logging interests.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Marley, who were friends of Mrs. Simpson and who had helped her keep up the property during her last years there, are now living there as caretakers in an agreement with the university.

## CAMPUS LANDSCAPING

Not to mention the forthcoming establishment of the Simpson Gardens, major beautification work is pressing ahead this year, according to Rex Murfitt, Superintendent of Grounds.

In recent months, work has concentrated on landscaping the Ring Road side of the Elliott Building and McPherson Library, and landscaping the entrances to the McKinnon Centre has begun.

Grassy mounds planted with shrubs and trees are being created to screen 'B' and 'C' parking lots in the Elliott-McPherson area. The tank farm in front of the Elliott will also be screened.

Evergreens and maple trees and beds of flowers are also being set within the concourse areas.

Mr. Murfitt said a new asphalt sidewalk, flanked by trees and shrubs bearing red and yellow bark, will be installed in a muddy shortcut many persons take to the Elliott when they cross Ring Road from the big No. 1 parking lot.

Some 15 evergreens have been shifted mainly from the Cornett Building to the front of McKinnon where seeding for grass will begin by fall.

A parking lot behind the McKinnon will be constructed this summer along with a service road connecting it to Ring Road.

Seeding in front of the Cornett Building was recently completed.

About 850 degrees will be conferred and UVic's fourth president, Dr. Howard E. Petch, will be installed as president and vice-chancellor at the University's 12th annual convocation ceremony on May 31.

This is the second highest number of degrees to be awarded by UVic, the most being 877 last year.

More than 400 graduands are expected to attend along with about 2,500 guests, dignitaries and faculty.

The ceremony begins at 2 p.m., and for the second straight year it is scheduled to take place outdoors in the academic quadrangle.

Dr. Frank Robinson (Chemistry), chairman of the Ceremonies Committee, advises that graduands be at the Cornett Building at 1 p.m. for assembling prior to the academic procession. Guests are asked to be present 30 minutes before the ceremony begins.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place within the McKinnon Gymnasium. The decision on where it will be held will be made by Dr. Robinson at noon that day.

President Petch will be presented for installation by S. Joseph Cunliffe chairman of the Board of Governors. The installation will be performed by Chancellor Robert Wallace, and following his oath of office the president will be robed by Joseph B. Clearihue, Chancellor Emeritus, and by his predecessor, Dr. H.E. Farquhar. The welcoming address will be given by Vice-President S.A. Jennings.

Dr. Petch assumed office on January 1, coming from the University of Waterloo, where he was academic vice-president.

The honorary degree of LL.D. (honoris causa) will be conferred on Edmund Herman Lohbrunner, a Victorian who is one of the world's foremost collectors and cultivators of alpine and rock garden plants, and on Dr. Wilfrid Bennett Lewis, Distinguished Professor of Science, Queen's University, Kingston.

Music for the ceremony will be provided by the Esquimalt Secondary School Band. The soloist will be Lorren Culley, a UVic Music Student graduating at the ceremony.

The convocation will be preceded by an interfaith baccalaureate service Friday at 7 p.m. in Emmanuel Baptist Church Cedar Hill Cross Road to be attended by graduands and guests.

Presiding will be Rev. Norman Archer of Emmanuel Baptist, Rabbi Emil Klein of Congregation Emanuel, Father Joseph Jackson of St. Patrick's Church, and Rev. Robert McLaren of Cadboro Bay United

## THE 12TH CONVOCATION

Church, who will give the main address.

A reading from Kahlil Gibran will be given by President Petch and a reading from the Bible by Brent Kaufmann, president of the graduating class.

The organist, Anne Crose, and the vocal soloist, Robin Powell, are both UVic graduates. They will perform an "Alleluia" from Mozart's *Exsultate, Jubilate*.

The convocation will be followed by a graduation dinner and ball at 7:30 p.m. in the Commons Dining Room. The valedictory will be delivered there by David McPhee.

## NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

A number of new scholarships will be available to UVic students next year.

The Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association will present the \$300 Howard English Bursary annually to "a student entering fourth year in the biological sciences, and who shows demonstrated interest in conservation, especially as applied to aquatic ecology". The donor is Wayne Zaccarelli, P.O. Box 93, Victoria, of the association.

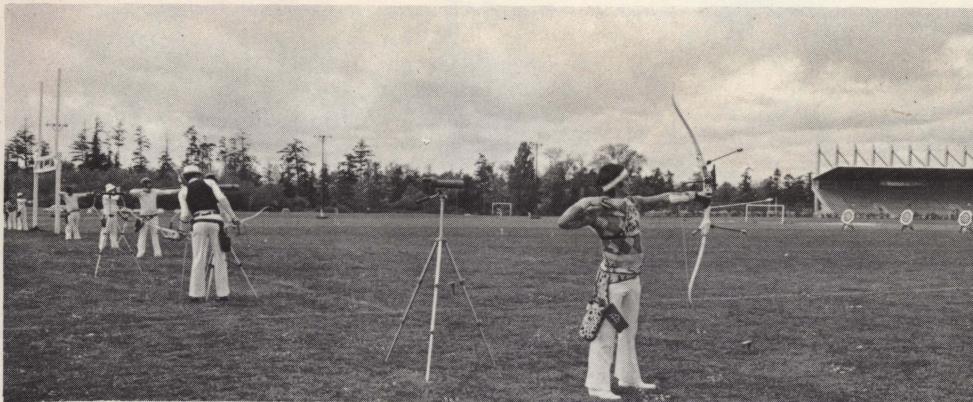
UVic President Howard Petch is the donor for the Rosalind Hulet Petch Memorial Prize in Creative Writing. In memory of his wife who died on January 27, the \$200 prize will be awarded annually to an outstanding student in Creative Writing.

The Murray and Frances James Adaskin Scholarship in Violin or Viola will be an annual award of \$150 given in honour of these distinguished Canadian musicians. Donated by Rivkah Isaacs, 572 Newport Avenue, the scholarship is awarded to a student violinist or violist entering the third or fourth year of study in the performance programme. In the case of two equally gifted candidates, need is to be the determining factor.

Miss Isaacs is also the donor for the Ida Halpern Music Scholarship, which will mean \$150 each year for an outstanding third or fourth year music student who is engaged in the study of Western Canadian music, especially that of Indians.

The Victoria branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada will award an annual book prize of \$25 to an outstanding student of Canadian history in a senior level course.

The Lily Irene Harris Memorial Bursary will be given to a needy female student registered in her first year in UVic's



*Thousands of well-directed arrows were flying over a campus field last weekend as 27 of the country's best archers competed in the Canadian trials for the world archery championships to be held June 25 to 28 at Interlaken, Switzerland. Lucille Lessard, 18, of Loretteville, Quebec, shows the form that won her the women's world title last year in Zagreb, Yugoslavia. During the official opening of the competition, which ran May 16 to 19, Dr. Fred Martens, chairman of the Physical Education Division, stepped up and with his one shot scored a bull's-eye.*



School of Nursing which is scheduled to open in 1976. According to the will of Miss Harris, who was a teacher of nursing in China for many years, preference is to be given to a landed immigrant from China. The bursary will be the annual interest from a \$7,500 contribution. G. Smedley Andrews, 4325 Blenkinsop Road, made the donation from Miss Harris' estate.

In *Around the Ring*, May 9, the Christopher E. Wilks Memorial Bursary Fund was announced, and this means about \$2,000 each year for needy students.

## THESIS EXAMS

Thesis examinations will be given by the Faculty of Graduate Studies to the following:

John Carmichael, Ph.D. candidate in Psychology, on "Psychological Methods of Weight Reduction for Obese Adolescent Girls", on May 30 at 10 a.m. in Cornett 193.

Michael Fumalle, M.A. candidate in Geography, on "Public Policy and the Preservation of Agricultural Land in the Southern Okanagan Valley", on June 9, 10:30 a.m., Cornett 145.

**Published every Friday**  
by University Relations  
Director — Maurice Cownden  
Editor — Bryan McGill  
Art Editor — Jim Bennett  
Deadline, noon Friday  
one week before publication



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**VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA**